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proving useful to students both of history and of political science. Even if we should grant the author's contention that the book contains "absolutely nothing new," he would place us under obligation to him for the fresh and stimulating manner in which he has set forth that which is old but too often overlooked. He explains the nature of the City-State and sketches the chief epochs in its history without any of the special pleading or insistence on one idea which characterize such a book as "The Ancient City" of M. Fustel de Coulanges. At the same time the book has many suggestive statements like the following, on page 315: "Cicero stands in this respect to Rome as Demosthenes to Athens; he was the last-born legitimate son of the Roman City-State . . . This is obvious throughout his writings, and is the real clue to the right appreciation of his political career."

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

A Constitutional History of the House of Lords. By LUKE OWEN PIKE. Pp. xxxv and 405. Price, \$4.00. London and New York: Macmillan & Co., 1894.

The author of this volume is a barrister-at-law, assistant keeper of the Public Records and editor of the "Year Books" published under the direction of the Master of Rolls. He has had, therefore, opportunities for producing a work at first hand, and the internal evidences go to prove that he has lived up to his opportunity in this respect. He cites abundantly the original sources of his facts, and indicates some instances in which his more careful investigation into the sources has led to the correction of long standing and oft repeated errors in the writings of Blackstone, Hallam and others.

The declaration is made that the author has written without political bias, and that the arrival of his work has not been influenced by the present agitation over the House of Lords. While the general tenor of the work supports this statement, yet we must regard the publication of the work as very timely indeed. But it would have seemed even more so to the student of practical politics had he seen fit to investigate, "without political bias," those great conflicts between the lords and commons for political supremacy in Parliament. Such a discussion would have thrown some light on the present peculiar position of the lords. It is now very evident that Great Britain, as well as the rest of the world, needs light just now, for what to do with the "chamber of all the prejudices" is just now very far removed from settlement, and in spite of recent agitations public sentiment does not point to either "ending or mending" the lords. In fact their successful opposition to Home Rule seems to have made

them aggressive, for Lord Chancellor Herschel felt compelled, on the last night of debate over Home Rule, to emphatically call the lords to remember that the making and unmaking of ministries belonged exclusively to the commons. One must regret, therefore, that this work gives little attention to the House of Lords of to-day, and omits most interesting controversies in which the lords have been deeply involved.

The work is divided into fifteen chapters. Chapter I discusses the origin of titles, and the classes represented in the Witan in the Pre-Norman Period. Chapter II traces the source of the "Ideas of Nobility and Succession" introduced by William the Conqueror. Chapter III explains the effects of the conquest down to Henry I. by showing how Saxon nobility were superseded by foreigners, who controlled the Witan. In Chapter IV is worked out the differentiation of governmental functions from Henry I. to Edward III. Chapters V, VI and VII are devoted to Earldoms and Baronages. The rise and decay of the power of the spiritual lords fills Chapter IX, while X and XI relate to the origin and nature of the judicial functions of House of Lords—especially appeals and impeachments. The last hundred pages brings one into touch with questions of more modern import and interest, such as the legislative power of the lords and the effect upon their constitution produced by relations with Scotland, Ireland, and the rise of democracy.

As a storehouse of well-authenticated facts, the work will be welcome to all students of English history, but for setting forth and explaining the various phases of life through which the lords have passed, and for indicating their later tendencies one must look to some future historian of Parliament.

W. H. MACE.

NOTES.

MRS. R. M. ATCHISON, the author of an essay, entitled "Un-American Immigration"* belongs to the hysterical school of political writers, and had she lived a hundred years ago would have made a liberal use of italics and capitals, a practice no longer sanctioned. The title itself is a fair specimen of the author's redundancy, for it might justly be observed that immigration is necessarily un-American. But not to cavil at phrases suffice it to say that the author in the main sustains her thesis that the present immigration is undesirable. There can be no doubt that there has been a deterioration in the quality of

**Un-American Immigration*. By RENA MICHAELS ATCHISON. Pp. 198. Price, \$1.25. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co., 1894.